

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/540,391

Examiner

Kambiz Abdi

Applicant(s)

ROBINS, MARK

Art Unit

3621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to December 1, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 15-17 and 23-28 (Renumbered 1-9).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

**KAMBIZ ABDI
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1. This action is in response to the decision rendered by the BPAI filed on 23 March 2005, followed by the office action mailed on May 25, 2006 and the response filed by the applicant on December 1, 2006. Entire prior office actions are incorporated herein by reference. In particular, the observations with respect to claim language, and response to previously presented arguments.

- Claims 15-17, 23 and 26-28 have been amended.
- Claims 1-14 and 19-22 have been canceled.
- Claims 15-17 and 23-28 have been allowed.

Drawings

2. New corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in this application because the current filed drawings are not sufficiently legible and clear as to be placed in the published patent as required by the MPEP. Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsman outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 15-17 and 23-28 are allowed. See Reasons for Allowance under separate heading.

Reasons For Allowance

4. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the art of record, taken individually or combination, disclose at least the limitation of linking a task with a feature.

Claims 15, 23, and 26 are distinguished over the closest prior art of "User's Guide for Microsoft Project" (1995), which teaches a project management software system. As shown in independent claims 1, 23, and 26, it is deemed that the Applicant's invention is distinguished over the Microsoft document in at least the limitation of linking product features and tasks as they are related to base the project on the premises of the features of such product. Although Microsoft, as well as other supporting evidence, clearly shows direct linkage between a product development feature and its related tasks, it apparently does not show it to the degree that is described in the claims as well as if such related arts would individually suggest parts of the claimed invention there would be no motivation to combine such teachings to arrive at the claimed invention as they have been claimed currently in this application. As it has been clearly articulated in the recuperative claims steps below;

"managing a release of a product, comprising
describing the product in terms of desired product features of the product;
defining, for each product feature, a plurality of tasks necessary to implement the
each product feature;
linking each task with its corresponding product feature; and
entering data associated with a selected one of the plurality of tasks into a
graphical user interface associated with the selected task."

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
- GB 1375917 discloses a computer for project management.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Kambiz Abdi** whose telephone number is **(571) 272-6702**. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:30am-5:00pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, **Andrew Fischer** can be reached at **(571) 272-6779**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through

Application/Control Number:
09/540,391
Art Unit: 3621

Page 4

Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see

<http://portal.uspto.gov/external/portal/pair>.

Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231**

or faxed to:

(571) 273-8300 [Official communications; including After Final communications labeled "Box AF"]

(571) 273-6702 [Informal/Draft communications, labeled "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"]

Hand delivered responses should be brought to the Examiner in the

Knox Building, 50 Dulany St. Alexandria, VA.

Kambiz Abdi
Primary Examiner
AU 3621

**KAMBIZ ABDI
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

March 26, 2007